

Social Engagement

I bring greetings from the three educational boards in Illinois representing universities, community colleges, and schools. Yesterday the three boards, in cooperation with the President of the Senate, the director of the Illinois Dept. on Aging, and other dignitaries, launched the Illinois Retiree Volunteer Program, a new partnership between presidents, retirees from higher education, and schools. It is an organizational strategy to promote the continuity of intergenerational programs and to bring retirees closer to presidents.

Education, particularly higher education is a bountiful resource for retirees and aging Americans. Our campuses are filled with resources to foster good health, recreation, technology, the arts, and social interaction. In Illinois, upwards of 60,000 older adults are taking courses on our campuses. Unfortunately, the connections between aging and higher education, are hit and miss at best.

Recommendation 1: Develop stronger ties between retirees and higher education to find win/win activities that tap the resources in education to foster quality education and quality of life for all ages.

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